



## Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board

### A Vision for the Cleanup of Rocky Flats



#### Introduction

The following pages present the Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board's "Vision" for the cleanup and closure of the Rocky Flats site. This paper presents not only the Board's actual Vision, but also information about the motivation for and the process used by the Board in developing its Vision. One year in the making, this Vision represents a major activity of the Board during the latter part of 1998 and a majority of 1999. As explained below, the Board hopes that this Vision will serve as a contextual framework as it reviews and provides future recommendations on the many plans and documents that will detail the cleanup and closure of Rocky Flats.

When the Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board (RFCAB) was formed in 1993, the Rocky Flats mission had changed from production to cleanup, yet no clear plans had been developed. A large quantity of material was still being stored in unsafe conditions, and was therefore a priority for site officials. In terms of cleanup, a number of ideas were being developed for what to do with buildings, environmental contamination, hazardous and radioactive wastes and other nuclear materials being stored onsite. Various alternatives were being floated about by site planners, such as "mothballing" buildings, filling buildings with concrete, building a new plutonium storage vault, disposing of low level waste onsite, and reusing certain Rocky Flats buildings. In 1995, the Department of Energy released its Baseline Environmental Management Report (BEMR). BEMR was an attempt to quantify the cleanup pricetag and schedule for the DOE's Environmental Management sites, such as Rocky Flats. BEMR estimated that cleaning up Rocky Flats would cost \$23 billion and take 75 years.

During the next few years, plans to clean up Rocky Flats began to come together. The present contractor, Kaiser-Hill, took over as the Integrating Management Contractor for the site in the summer of 1995. One of the company's first actions was to develop the Accelerated Site Action Project, or ASAP. This was the first plan to conceive of accomplishing cleanup on a faster schedule. ASAP was followed by several iterations of plans, which culminated in a national focus on accelerated cleanup - the Ten Year

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Plan. Also during this time, DOE and its regulatory agencies signed the Rocky Flats Cleanup Agreement

(RFCA). RFCA's preamble laid out the same assumptions that had evolved into the Ten Year Plan concept. As these pieces were coming together, RFCAB continued to provide a number of recommendations on a wide variety of cleanup issues. By 1998, the Board had made more than 70 recommendations. These recommendations addressed waste management, future use, plutonium storage and many other individual issues as they came up.

During 1998, it became apparent to the Board that the specific cleanup strategies in what was now being called Accelerating Cleanup: Paths to Closure had remained fairly stable for a couple of years. After years of repeated alterations to the cleanup approach, DOE and Kaiser-Hill had seemingly identified a desired strategy. Instead of continuing to address cleanup issues in a piecemeal manner, the Board decided it was time to take an overall look at the Rocky Flats closure plan and make some judgments.

In October 1998, the Board finalized a work plan for 1999 that was very different from previous work plans. Instead of identifying a number of issues and assigning them to committees to work on throughout the year, this work plan disbanded committees, and called for two Board meetings a month to address the major questions associated with the Rocky Flats closure plan.

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